

Work Task I1: Public Outreach

| FY15 Estimate | FY15 Actual Obligations | Cumulative Expenditures Through FY15 | FY16 Approved Estimate | FY17 Proposed Estimate | FY18 Proposed Estimate | FY19 Proposed Estimate |
|---------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| \$100,000 | \$98,604.57 | \$509,004.93 | \$100,000 | \$125,000 | \$125,000 | \$125,000 |

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Start Date: FY05

Expected Duration: FY55

Long-Term Goal: To increase education and support for the LCR MSCP

Conservation Measures: N/A

Location: N/A

Purpose: To communicate, coordinate, and educate LCR MSCP Steering Committee members, internal and external stakeholders, and the general public about LCR MSCP implementation activities

Connections with Other Work Tasks (Past and Future): All LCR MSCP work tasks

Project Description: Under this work task, an outreach program for the LCR MSCP will be implemented. Activities are widely varied and include the creation of educational materials, participation at conferences and other public events, interaction with some school events, and coordination with youth conservation corps groups. Outreach may be specific to a project but more typically addresses the overall focus of the LCR MSCP and general conservation issues.

Previous Activities: LCR MSCP staff hosted the Colorado River Terrestrial and Riparian annual meeting and participated in the Colorado River Aquatic Biologists annual meeting. These meetings provide centralized forums for scientists and resource managers to discuss current research and monitoring projects taking place on the lower Colorado River. Space is devoted within the LCR MSCP Web site to highlight both of these meetings.

A wide range of printed materials, videos, and reports has been created to explain various program features in both summary (factsheet) format as well as more

lengthy reports. Several banner displays have been created; these materials have been used extensively to promote the LCR MSCP at conferences, conservation area dedications, and other events.

FY15 Accomplishments: The LCR MSCP Office commemorated the first 10 years of implementation by hosting a 3-day tour of the conservation areas, accented by the dedication of the Laguna Division Conservation Area in April. In support of this event, additional indoor displays were created, which included informational banners, posters, factsheets, and a custom-printed table wrap. A detailed, 3-full-day itinerary was developed to provide tour participants with an indepth understanding of the conservation areas and the accomplishments achieved under the program.

LCR MSCP staff provided additional tours of conservation areas for the Water Education Foundation, Red Rock Audubon Society, and Yuma Audubon Society and partnered with the National Park Service and Clark County Wetlands Park on events such as “National Public Lands Day,” “International Migratory Bird Day,” and “BioBlitz” (a citizen science wildlife observation event).

LCR MSCP information was exhibited at numerous science education events throughout Las Vegas and Laughlin, which included the fifth annual Las Vegas Science and Technology Festival. LCR MSCP staff participated in educational events at schools in Henderson, Las Vegas, and Boulder City. Staff hosted an exhibit booth at the Colorado River Water Users Association annual conference and the Colorado River Terrestrial and Riparian annual meeting.

The LCR MSCP Office increased its involvement with volunteers from 88 hours of volunteer labor in the previous year to 254 hours during FY15. These volunteers included students from Arizona State University in Lake Havasu City, Northern Arizona University (Yuma campus), and others. Volunteers participated in post-development monitoring at some sites, including bat mist netting, small mammal trapping, Monitoring Avian Productivity and Survivorship bird banding, and razorback sucker monitoring. The LCR MSCP Office also worked with two youth conservation corps groups during FY15 on two projects (Bubbling Ponds Fish Hatchery and the Cibola Valley Conservation Area), which included 13 youths contributing a total of 1,040 labor hours. These volunteer and youth conservation corps projects helped to provide some labor for the LCR MSCP, engaged youths in conservation work, and fostered relationships among them, the community, and the program.

FY16 Activities: The LCR MSCP Office is cost sharing with the Boulder Canyon Operations Office to enter into an agreement with the National Park Service (Lake Mead) to support Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) continuing education workshops. These workshops focus on explaining water science and related issues to Nevada teachers and provide information to be used in classrooms. Through this partnership and the focus on teacher education, the

LCR MSCP Office will be able to individualize the curriculum to include information about the lower Colorado River and the LCR MSCP and also reach a larger number of students than could be reached by individual staff efforts. The agreement is written for up to a 5-year period.

The LCR MSCP Office is planning to complete at least one youth conservation corps project while leveraging non-LCR MSCP funds. Proposals for corps projects typically involve control of invasive weeds or labor-intensive maintenance projects performed at conservation areas or partnering facilities (such as hatcheries). These projects employ a crew of approximately 8 young people (16–25) over an 80-hour duration.

The LCR MSCP Office will continue to participate in annual Colorado River Water Users Association, Colorado River Aquatic Biologists, and Colorado River Terrestrial and Riparian meetings. The LCR MSCP Office will continue to work with partner agencies, participating in National Public Lands Day, International Migratory Bird Day (Clark County Wetlands Park), Las Vegas Science and Technology Festival, and other science and conservation-themed community events.

Proposed FY17 Activities: Emphasis for outreach will continue to focus on LCR MSCP stakeholder education, with interaction in local communities. LCR MSCP staff will continue to support one to three large events per year, such as the Colorado River Water Users Association and the Las Vegas Science and Technology Festival. These activities provide opportunities to expand stakeholder and public knowledge of the LCR MSCP. Outreach to local community schools and colleges will continue, with a focus on providing volunteer opportunities when appropriate.

The LCR MSCP Office will continue to work with the National Park Service and the Boulder Canyon Operations Office to promote the Project WET (Water Education for Teachers) workshops. The LCR MSCP Office will expand outreach as additional conservation areas are completed. This increased public awareness will help resolve potential issues over conflicting use of conservation areas.

Pertinent Reports: The 2015 annual report will be posted on the LCR MSCP Web site upon completion.